

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW ELAPID SNAKE OF THE GENUS *MATICORA*  
FROM SARAWAK, BORNEO

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The long-glanded snakes, formerly referred to *Doliophis* Girard by Boulenger (1896, Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus., 3, pp. 399-405) are much in need of a thorough revision. The frontal character by which Boulenger endeavored to separate *bilineata* (Peters) from *intestinalis* (Laurenti), does not hold good, though on color pattern *bilineata* remains recognizable as a Philippine race of *intestinalis*.

This leaves us with three species of which *M. philippinus* (Günther) is distinguishable by its smaller eye, the other two appear to have several recognizable races. *M. bivirgata* and its forms are all immaculate underneath, and have from 34-50 subcaudals. *M. intestinalis* and its forms have the underside conspicuously barred with black, and have from 15-33 subcaudals.

However in the Museum of Comparative Zoology is a Sarawak snake which occupies an annectant position, having an immaculate abdomen and 23 subcaudals. Its occurrence in Sarawak where both *M. b. tetraetaenia* (Bleeker) and *M. i. nigrotaeniata* (Peters) are found, may have special significance, so, as its affinities are clearly with *M. intestinalis*, I propose calling it:

*Maticora intestinalis immaculata*, subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 15,173. A male from near Marudi, Baram River, Sarawak, Borneo. Collected by Dr. H. W. Smith, December, 1920.

*Diagnosis*.—Differs from all other *intestinalis* in having the under-surface immaculate brick red (white in alcohol) except for the anal shield, otherwise without trace of black crossbars. Subcaudals 23.

*Description*.—Characters those of the typical form. Upper labials 6, the third and fourth entering the orbit; preocular 1; postoculars 2; temporals 1+2; ventrals 203; anal entire; subcaudals 23.

*Color in life*.—Above, dark brown with two longitudinal, dorsolateral,

yellow lines (pinkish brown in alcohol) two scales in width, another, but narrower, line on outermost row of scales on either flank; three light (? yellow in life) blotches on tail. Below, brick red (white in alcohol), uniform, except for anal shield which is black.

*Size.*—Total length of holotype ♂, 378 (347+31) mm.

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There are eight species or subspecies of *Maticora* in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology which can be separated by the following key. It cannot be too strongly emphasized, however, that other material, and all records in the literature, should be examined in order to ascertain whether the alleged races are associated with particular habitats, and for the purpose of defining their exact ranges.

*Key to the Races of Maticora*

1. Belly crimson or yellow (white in alcohol) with numerous black crossbars..... 2  
    Belly uniform crimson (white) without trace of black crossbars. . . 6
2. Diameter of eye about half as long as its distance from the mouth; range: Philippines ..... *philippina* 3  
    Diameter of eye nearly equal to its distance from the mouth. . . . . 3
3. A single yellow (white) vertebral line in addition to a line (at least indicated) on either flank; range: Malaya; Borneo; Sumatra; Java; Celebes..... *i. bilineata*  
    A pair of light lines on back in addition to a line (at least indicated) on either flank..... 4
4. A pair of pale gray lines on back; range: Mount Kinabalu, North Borneo..... *i. everetti*  
    A pair of yellow or reddish brown lines on back..... 5
5. Dark pigmentation of back extends forwards to end in a T-shaped marking connecting the eyes, and in sharp contrast to the red (white) snout; range: Philippines ..... *i. bilineata*  
    Dark pigmentation of back not forming a T-shaped marking on upper surface of head which is more or less uniform; range: Sarawak; Sumatra (? Celebes, if *sumatranus* is a synonym) . . . . . *i. nigrotaeniata*
6. Subcaudals in 23-? pairs; range: Baram River, Sarawak (known only from holotype)..... *i. immaculata*  
    Subcaudals in 34-50 pairs..... 7
7. Two fine pale-blue lines on back in addition to one, which may be white on either flank; range: Borneo..... *b. tetrataenia*  
    No lines on back and none, or at most one, on either flank; range: Sumatra; Java and adjacent islands ..... *b. bivirgata*